

Letter in support of SB477, specifically section 7

Good day Senator. Anwar, Representative Steinberg, Ranking members and committee members.

My name is Emma Brooks I am a resident of Stratford, Connecticut and I am in support of sb477 and specifically section 7, the creation of a commission on gun violence prevention and intervention.

I come in support of this bill in several capacities, as the mother of a Black son, as a family member and friend to many who have buried loved ones as a result of gun violence and as a child protective service worker. I mention my background because I have witnessed the devastation that gun violence causes on different levels. The senseless loss of life is not only devastating at the time of death, there are lasting effects. We have generations of families that have become desensitized to gun violence because it is so prevalent that people normalize it. These individuals are also living with trauma that is often undiagnosed and if treated at all, it is usually by self medicating. These are just a few of the consequences of gun violence that I have encountered. It is my belief that a commission created to delve into these consequences would be a valuable tool to further uncover strategies and services that could begin the work toward preventing gun violence.

Far too often we propose solutions to problems without stakeholder input and without a multidisciplinary approach and in my experience, solutions without those two components start off well but have a tendency to fizzle out. I ask that you all approve this Bill and take a step toward preventing and ultimately eliminating gun violence in our state.

I thank you all for your time.

Respectfully,

Emma J. Brooks